

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 415

By Towns

A RESOLUTION to honor the LeMoyne College student participants of the 1960 Sit-In Movement.

WHEREAS, March 2021 marks the sixty-first anniversary of the participation of students from LeMoyne College in the 1960 Sit-In Movement; and

WHEREAS, in commemoration of that historic event, those courageous young men and women will be recognized and honored on Friday, March 26, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Sit-In Movement against racial segregation reached Memphis on Friday, March 18, 1960, when seven Owen Junior College students sat in at the lunch counter in McClellan's Variety Store in downtown Memphis; and

WHEREAS, the next day, thirty-six students from LeMoyne College and Owen Junior College led a rally to participate in a sit-in at Cossitt and Peabody libraries in an effort to desegregate public facilities in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, the thirty-six students, along with five African-American journalists covering their actions, were arrested as a result of the sit-ins; and

WHEREAS, the Main Library in the City of Memphis was targeted as forty students sat at tables, and later, demonstrations were held at department stores, with more than 300 demonstrators arrested on loitering charges; and

WHEREAS, these public facilities-focused sit-ins inspired others to sit in at city museums, parks, churches, and department stores; urged and endorsed by Marlos Barry, a LeMoyne graduate and national chair of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, the resolute efforts of these students were important contributions to the desegregation of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) secretary Maxine Smith helped in the struggle. As a result, buses and city parks were later integrated; and

WHEREAS, a historical marker has been placed on the college campus honoring the three dozen students who participated in the 1960 sit-ins; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we specially recognize these individuals on the occasion of this historic milestone; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the LeMoyne College student participants in the 1960 Sit-In Movement on the occasion of the sixty-first anniversary of the protest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.